

Ex-parent group head is arrested in abuse
He may have molested kids for a year, police say.

Orlando Sentinel (Florida)

November 28, 2006 Tuesday, VOLUSIA

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Section: LOCAL & STATE; VOLUSIA; Pg. B1

Length: 420 words

Byline: Tanya Caldwell, Sentinel Staff Writer

Body

An Orange City man who was the former head of a foster-parent association has been arrested on charges of child abuse and lewd and lascivious molestation, officials said Monday.

George Allen Goolde, 61, told investigators he was having inappropriate contact with a 7-year-old and a 10-year-old, police said.

Police wouldn't identify the gender of the children.

Goolde was arrested Saturday after someone called the Department of Children & Families' abuse hotline to accuse the man of physically and sexually assaulting two children, said detective Sgt. Jason Sampsell, a spokesman for the Orange City Police Department.

The children were removed from the home after DCF investigators went to the house the day after the phone call, officials said.

"He [Goolde] confirmed to them what he was doing, that he was touching the children," Sampsell said.

Goolde told investigators that he had sexual contact with the children as recently as Friday, the night before he was arrested, Sampsell said.

Goolde, the former president of the Volusia/Flagler Foster-Adoptive Parent Association, may have been abusing the children for at least a year, Sampsell said.

Police are investigating whether a third child was abused. It was unclear Monday when and where that possible abuse could have taken place.

The two children removed Saturday were the only children living in the house, officials said.

Local foster officials were shocked to hear about Goolde's arrest.

"I was very surprised," said Ron Zychowski, the chief executive officer of Community Based Care of Volusia and Flagler counties, which works with DCF to provide homes for foster children.

Zychowski said his agency did a background check on Goolde and found nothing negative.

Friday night's call to the hotline was the first complaint Zychowski has heard about Goolde.

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Zychowski described the Volusia/Flagler Foster-Adoptive Parent Association as a loosely organized group of parents with foster children.

It was unknown Monday when Goolde served as its president.

The state's Division of Incorporations still listed Goolde as president but noted the organization's status as "inactive."

When it was incorporated with the state in 2001, organizers said one of the group's missions was to "improve conditions for the betterment of the children."

A message left for Goolde at his house wasn't immediately returned Monday.

DCF officials declined to comment about the case, which is under investigation.

CONTACT: Tanya Caldwell can be reached at tcaldwell@orlandosentinel.com or 386-851-7910.

Graphic

PHOTO: **George Allen Goolde**: Once led group for foster and adoptive parents.

Load-Date: November 30, 2006

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